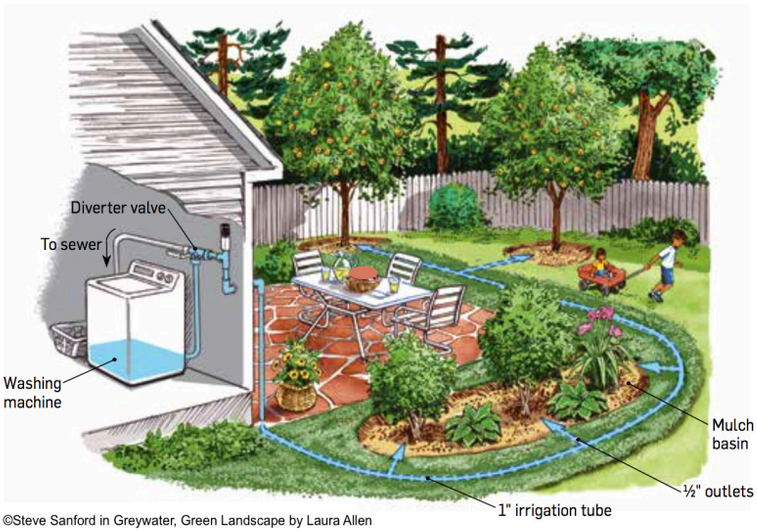
Laundry-to-Landscape Graywater System



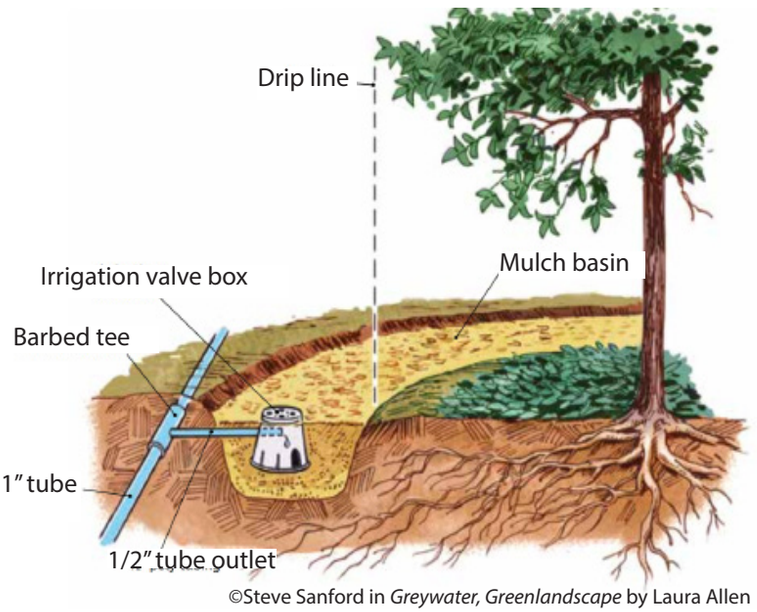
©Steve Sanford in Greywater, Green Landscape by Laura Allen

What is graywater?

Graywater is gently used water from sinks, showers, and washing machines. Graywater is used to irrigate outdoor landscapes and provides a homeowner with a dependable source of water through the dry season.

One of the most popular, simple and affordable systems is the laundry-to-landscape (L2L) which uses water from the washing machine to irrigate the outdoor landscape.

Irrigating with graywater can reduce your water and energy bill. It also reduces wastewater costs by reducing the amount of water that needs to be transported and disinfected at the wastewater treatment facility.



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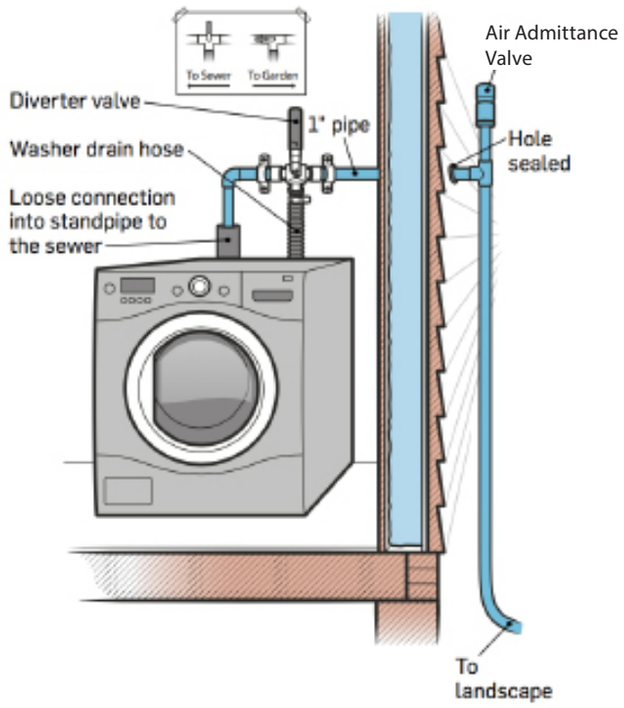
Graywater from a laundry-to-landscape system delivers water to a mulch basin at the plant's drip line.

Laundry-to-Landscape

The L2L system captures graywater from the drain hose of the washing machine and connects to a diverter valve, which allows graywater to be directed to either the landscape or the sewer. The water flows through a 1-inch irrigation tube and branches off into 1/2-inch tubing to irrigate specific plants. The tubing directed to specific plants are called outlets.

This system does not alter the household plumbing and therefore does not require a permit in California, as long as basic guidelines are followed. It is one of the easiest systems to construct and is very easy to change.

Laundry-to-Landscape Graywater System



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Plan your L2L System

1. Estimate graywater flows.
Old top loaders generally use 30-40 gallons per load, and front loaders use 8-15 gallons per load. Based on how many loads you do a week, calculate the amount of graywater available to irrigate your plants.

2. Where can you deliver the water?
L2L systems can send water about 50 feet across a flat landscape, and a further distance downhill. Consider where the irrigation pipe from the washing machine can exit the house: either through the wall or crawl space.

3. Choose plants to irrigate.
Suitable plants include trees and shrubs, as well as larger perennials or annuals. Do not use graywater to water fruit or vegetables that come in direct contact with graywater.

4. Sketch your system, collect materials, build.
Get a free installation manual with detailed instructions at greywateraction.org



Close-up of diverter valve

Soap

Use liquid detergents that are low in salts, biodegradable, and free of boron and chlorine bleach.

Rebates

EBMUD offers a rebate up to $100 for the purchase of a brass three-way diverter, air admittance valve, and PVC conveyance line.

Call 1-866-403-2683 or visit us online at *www.ebmud.com/watersmart* for full program details. Restrictions to rebates apply.